

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for limiting the size of print jobs in a computer network, comprising:
 - 5 setting a predetermined quota for the number of pages a network user may print within a specified time period;
 - receiving a print job request from a network user;
 - determining if the print job exceeds the
 - 10 predetermined print quota;
 - preventing the print job from printing if it exceeds the predetermined print quota; and
 - allowing the print job to print if it does not exceed the predetermined print quota.
- 15 2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising logging the amount of the user's print quota that is used.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of setting a predetermined print quota further comprises
 - 20 setting separate print quotas for different lengths of time.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of setting a predetermined print quota further comprises setting a single, uniform quota for all network users.
- 25 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of setting a predetermined print quota further comprises setting individual print quotas for each network user.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein a network user may request special permission to exceed the print quota.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the process 5 of granting permission to exceed the print quota is automated.

8. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for limiting the size of print jobs in a computer network, the 10 computer program product comprising:

instructions for setting a predetermined quota for the number of pages a network user may print within a specified time period;

15 instructions for receiving a print job request from a network user;

instructions for determining if the print job exceeds the predetermined print quota;

instructions for preventing the print job from printing if it exceeds the predetermined print quota; and

20 instructions for allowing the print job to print if it does not exceed the predetermined print quota.

9. The computer program product according to claim 8, further comprising instructions for logging the amount of the user's print quota that is used.

25 10. The computer program product according to claim 8, wherein the instructions for setting a predetermined print quota further comprise instructions for setting

separate print quotas for different lengths of time.

11. The computer program product according to claim 8, wherein the instructions for setting a predetermined print quota further comprise instructions for setting a 5 single, uniform quota for all network users.

12. The computer program product according to claim 8, wherein the instructions for setting a predetermined print quota further comprise instructions for setting individual print quotas for each network user.

10 13. The computer program product according to claim 8, further comprising instructions for a network user to request special permission to exceed the print quota.

14. The computer program product according to claim 13, wherein the instructions for granting permission to 15 exceed the print quota are automated.

15. An system for limiting the size of print jobs in a computer network, comprising:

means for setting a predetermined quota for the number of pages a network user may print within a 20 specified time period;

means for receiving a print job request from a network user;

means for determining if the print job exceeds the predetermined print quota;

25 means for preventing the print job from printing if it exceeds the predetermined print quota; and

means for allowing the print job to print if it does

not exceed the predetermined print quota.

16. The system according to claim 15, further comprising means for logging the amount of the user's print quota that is used.

5 17. The system according to claim 15, wherein the means for setting a predetermined print quota further comprises means for setting separate print quotas for different lengths of time.

10 18. The system according to claim 15, wherein the means for setting a predetermined print quota further comprises means for setting a single, uniform quota for all network users.

15 19. The system according to claim 15, wherein the means for setting a predetermined print quota further comprises means for setting individual print quotas for each network user.

20. The system according to claim 15, further comprising means for a network user to request special permission to exceed the print quota.

20 21. The system according to claim 16, wherein the means for granting permission to exceed the print quota is automated.